

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 2939

AN ACT

To award the Congressional Gold Medal to Shimon Peres.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress makes the following findings:

3 (1) Shimon Peres was born in Poland in 1923.

4 (2) The Peres family emigrated to Tel Aviv in
5 1934, and all of the family members of Shimon
6 Peres who remained in Poland were murdered dur-
7 ing the Holocaust.

8 (3) Before Israel gained independence, Shimon
9 Peres earned the respect of senior leaders in the
10 independence movement in Israel, most notably
11 David Ben-Gurion.

12 (4) The founding generation of Israel was cen-
13 tral to the development of Israel, and Shimon Peres
14 is the only surviving member of that founding gen-
15 eration.

16 (5) Shimon Peres has served in numerous high-
17 level cabinet positions and ministerial posts in Israel,
18 including head of the Israeli Navy, Minister of De-
19 fense, Foreign Minister, Prime Minister, and Presi-
20 dent, among many others.

21 (6) Shimon Peres has honorably served Israel
22 for over 70 years, during which he has significantly
23 contributed to United States interests and has
24 played a pivotal role in forging the strong and un-
25 breakable bond between the United States and
26 Israel.

1 (7) By presenting the Congressional Gold
2 Medal to Shimon Peres, the first to be awarded to
3 a sitting President of Israel, Congress proclaims its
4 unbreakable bond with Israel and reaffirms its con-
5 tinual support for Israel as we commemorate the
6 65th anniversary of the independence of Israel and
7 the 90th birthday of Shimon Peres, which are both
8 significant milestones in Israeli history.

9 (8) Maintaining strong bilateral relations be-
10 tween the United States and Israel has been a pri-
11 ority of Shimon Peres since he began working with
12 the United States in the days of John F. Kennedy.
13 The strong bond is exemplified by the following:

14 (A) President Reagan said to Shimon
15 Peres upon his visit to the United States, “Mr.
16 Prime Minister, I thank you very much for your
17 visit. It’s been an occasion to renew a friend-
18 ship and to review and enhance the strength of
19 our unique bilateral relationship.”.

20 (B) At another point President Reagan
21 said of Shimon Peres, “His vision, his states-
22 manship and his tenacity are greatly appre-
23 ciated here.”.

24 (C) While visiting with Shimon Peres at
25 the Residence of the President in Jerusalem,

1 President Obama described Shimon Peres as “*
2 * * a son of Israel who’s devoted his life to
3 keeping Israel strong and sustaining the bonds
4 between our two nations”.

5 (D) On March 20, 2013, Shimon Peres re-
6 affirmed his belief in the relationship between
7 the United States and Israel, stating, “America
8 stood by our side from the very beginning. You
9 support us as we rebuild our ancient homeland
10 and as we defend our land. From Holocaust to
11 redemption.”.

12 (E) On March 21, 2013, Shimon Peres
13 stated, “* * * America is so great and we are
14 so small. But I learned that you don’t measure
15 us by size, but by values. When it comes to val-
16 ues, we are you and you are us * * * As I look
17 back, I feel that the Israel of today has exceed-
18 ed the vision we had 65 years ago. Reality has
19 surpassed our dreams. The United States of
20 America helped us to make this possible.”.

21 **SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.**

22 (a) AWARD AUTHORIZED.—The President pro tem-
23 pore of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Rep-
24 resentatives shall make appropriate arrangements for the

1 award, on behalf of Congress, of a single gold medal of
2 appropriate design in honor of President Shimon Peres.

3 (b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purpose of the
4 award referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the
5 Treasury shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems,
6 devices, and inscriptions to be determined by the Sec-
7 retary.

8 **SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.**

9 Under such regulations as the Secretary of the Treas-
10 ury may prescribe, the Secretary may strike duplicate
11 medals in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to
12 section 2 and sell such duplicate medals at a price suffi-
13 cient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, ma-
14 terials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

1 **SEC. 4. NATIONAL MEDALS.**

2 Medals struck pursuant to this Act are national med-
3 als for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States
4 Code.

Passed the House of Representatives May 19, 2014.

Attest:

Clerk.

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